

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claim 44 is allowable and 68 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 44, 56, 57, 59-64, 66, 67, and 70-73 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 56, 57, 59-64, 66, 67, and 70 presently stand rejected. Claims 58, 65, 68, and 69 are hereby cancelled without prejudice. Claims 56, 57, 59-64, 66, and 67 are amended herein. Claims 71-73 are newly presented. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner withdrew claims 58, 65, and 69 from consideration as being direction to a non-elected species of invention. Accordingly, Applicants hereby cancel claims 58, 65, and 69 without prejudice.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 67 due to lack of antecedent for “the second programming pulse.” Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 67 to recite “the direction programming pulse” as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 56, 57, 59-64, 66, 67, and 70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by IEEE Journal of Quantum Electronics, Vol. 28, No. 10, October 1992 by Weiner et al. (hereinafter “Weiner”).

Amended independent claim 56 now recites, in pertinent parts,

an address decoder to decode routing addresses corresponding to each of the angularly distinct output paths; and
a deflector to deflect the direction pulses in response to the address decoder to establish each of the angularly distinct output paths.

Applicants respectfully submit that Weiner fails to disclose an address decoder and deflector as recited in claim 56. Although Weiner discloses “the possibility of storing multiple matched filters within the same spectral hologram by means of angular multiplexing,” (Weiner, page 2257, first partial paragraph) Weiner fails to disclose any

technique by which to accomplish this “possibility.” As such, Weiner fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the recited address decoder and deflector.

Consequently, Weiner fails to anticipate each and every element of claim 56, as required under M.P.E.P. § 2131. Independent claim 63 now includes similar novel elements as independent claim 56. Accordingly, Applicants request that the instant §102 rejections of claims 56 and 63 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 67 has been amended to include the elements of cancelled dependent claim 68, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants request that the § 102 rejection of claim 67 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 56, 57, 59-64, 66, 67, and 70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiner in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,422,873 to Kewitsch et al. (hereinafter “Kewitsch”).

For the reasons discussed above, the combination of Weiner and Kewitsch fails to teach or suggest all elements of independent claims 56, 63, and 67, as required under M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accordingly, Applicants request that the instant §103(a) rejections of claims 56, 63, and 67 be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 57, 59-62, 64, 66, and 70 are patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 103 and § 102 rejections for claims 57, 59-62, 64, 66, and 70 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the

undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

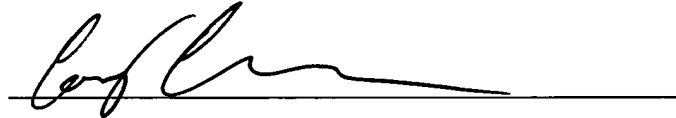
CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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